

## MUTINY ON THE HIGH SEAS.

CALCUTTA, 10th January

Captain Lewis, of the barque Kaffir, makes the following report:—On the 24th November, whilst on the voyage from Natal to Calcutta, he sighted the Swedish schooner Natal, Captain Enstrom, from Boston to Brisbane, with a cargo of Yankee notions. The Natal signalled that she required immediate assistance, that she was short-handed, and that a mutiny had broken out amongst her crew. Captain Lewis ran down to the schooner and saw men on deck with their heads bandaged. He armed a boat's crew and went on board. He found the captain and mate suffering from severe wounds. The crew, consisting of three men, were kept at work by fear only. The vessels were then in lat. 37°16' S., long. 74°47' E. The story told by Captain Enstrom was that the crew originally consisted of two officers and five men of various nationalities. The ring-leader of the crew, who hailed from Australia, understood, as he thought, how the cargo of sorts which the vessel carried could be turned to account amongst the islands of the Pacific. The man, had given trouble during the voyage, but nothing overt had occurred till the night of the mutiny, 16th November. Captain Enstrom on that night was lying asleep in the cabin, when he was attacked by the crew. Two men, armed with axes, attacked the captain, whilst another man, with a revolver, attacked the mate, who was also asleep in his berth. The man who assailed the mate fired at him twice; but whether from the powder being damp or the cartridges old the shots were not mortal. One took effect in the hollow between the eyes and another in the chin. When Captain Lewis saw the man the bullets were still in the wounds. As the man attacked the captain the axe caught in a low beam of the cabin, but he struck the sleeping man in the jaw, slicing off a portion of the bone and cutting the neck. A second stroke, which had lost its force from the same cause, crossed the first wound. The sailor who fired at the mate bolted. When the mate rushed into the captain's cabin, he found him struggling with two men, one of whom stabbed him in the neck with a sheath knife. On the entrance of the mate the two men left the cabin. The mate and captain followed the mutineers, but were assailed with handspikes and driven back. They then bound up their wounds and got their guns. The crew, seeing they were armed, ran forward. Four of them got down into the hold, but the fifth was made a prisoner and secured aft. The hatches were then put on the hold to keep in the other four prisoners. On looking round after the struggle the captain discovered blood on the port rail, showing that before making an attack on the cabin the mutineers had murdered the second mate and had thrown his body overboard. The crew were kept in the hold till Tuesday, the 20th November. They refused all terms and remained in a state of mutiny, and as the captain and mate were wounded it was impossible for them to navigate the ship. The captain had no alternative, after fair warning, but to proceed to extremities. Two of the mutineers were then shot, when the others submitted and agreed to work the vessel. Matters were in this state when the Kaffir spoke the schooner. Captain Lewis gave what assistance he could, and being in command of a small vessel himself he could not make prisoners of the mutineers. The leader, the Australian, had been shot. Captain Lewis called for volunteers from his crew and gave Captain Edstrom two men. The Natal being thus strengthened, resumed her voyage, the captain expressing his intention to call in at Adelaide.

## THE MEXICAN TREATY.

Washington, March 11th.—After four hours consideration in secret session the Senate ratified the Mexican Treaty.

The S. F. Bulletin says: The debate which preceded the vote is described as devoid of incident. Senator Gibson made the first and longest speech and was against the treaty, on the ground that it admits free sugar in competition with the chief staple of his State. Senators Jonas, Conger and others spoke against the treaty and Senator Miller of California and one or two others favored it. Several amendments were offered, voted on and lost. Among them were two by Senator Jonas, the first adding meat products, wheat and flour, and the other adding cotton and cotton goods to the list of exportable articles, and one by Morrill, fixing a lower limit to the grades of sugar which might be imported. When the treaty was up some weeks ago it was defeated by exactly one vote. Van Wyck of Kansas was the Senatorial pivot on which it turned. He had voted against it

on the preceding occasion. The articles to be admitted of duty from Mexico are twenty-eight in number, and comprise animals, alive, specially imported for breeding purposes; barley, beer, coffee, eggs, esparto and other grasses, flowers, fruits, goatskins; henequin, sisal, hemp and other like substitutes for hemp; hide ropes, hides, raw or uncured; India rubber, indigo, Ixile or Tampico fibre, jalap, leather, logwood, molasses, palm or coconut oil, quicksilver, sarsaparilla, shrimps and other shellfish, straw, sugar, not above No. 16, Dutch standard in color, tobacco in leaf, vegetables, wood and timber of all kinds.

The articles which the United States are to have the privilege of shipping free are seventy-three in number.

But the treaty cannot yet be said to have become a law of the land. The question has recently been raised whether the Senate can by a treaty modify the fiscal legislation of Congress. The Senate had fallen into the practise of doing so because many of the early treaties were of mixed character. They related to fiscal arrangements, as well as to boundaries and other matters, which in most cases ought to be kept secret from all parties but those immediately interested. For some time it has been supposed that, as few treaties can be put in operation without an appropriation, the House informally at least must always have a voice in the making of these compacts, but a more direct concession has recently been made. There is a provision in the Mexican treaty that Congress shall pass a law to carry it into effect. This will bring up the whole question before that body. But a majority vote in both houses will suffice. The principal opponents of the treaty were the Louisiana sugar men. If the tobacco interests were effected it made its fight very quietly.

## EMPEROR WILLIAM'S SPEECH.

On the 6th March, the Reichstag opened with the usual formalities. The speech from the throne was read by Herr Von Boetticher. It asserts the chief task of the Reichstag lies in the domain of social and political affairs, and says the Emperor's wish, which has been solemnly and repeatedly expressed, for improvement of the condition of the workmen has met with full appreciation on the part of the German people. Among numerous bills announced is one to provide a scheme for accident insurance, after the adoption of which the Emperor recommends the formation of a system of insurance for the firm and aged. This is intended to prevent any possible attempts to overthrow the divine and human order of things, and will pave the way for the abrogation of existing exceptional measures. A bill will be introduced providing that the anti-Socialist law shall remain in force for a further period. Another will propose an amendment to the present system of insurance against sickness. The control of joint stock companies will form the subject of another bill, and a convention with Belgium for the protection of literary and artistic works will be submitted for approval. The foreign relations with Germany, the speech declares, "are in a highly satisfactory condition. Solidarity exists between the pacific sentiments of Germany and those of neighboring friendly powers which, so far as can be humanly foreseen, affords a guarantee of security and peace, both in Germany and other countries." The speech concludes with these words: "The strengthening of the hereditary friendship of Germany with neighboring Imperial Courts, and the cordial reception of the Crown Prince in Italy and Spain prove that German prestige is fortified by the confidence of foreign sovereigns and nations in the policy of Germany."

## ADMIRATION FOR BAKER PASHA.

Speaking of clouds reminds me of the condition under which Parliament opened. Just as the address to the Throne was about to be moved, the terrible tidings from Egypt reached us. Baker Pasha, the defeated General, is a great favorite with the English people. Your readers will not have forgotten the disgraceful circumstances under which he lost his commission in the English army. It was for an indecent assault upon an unprotected female in a railway carriage. But that was some years ago, and his brilliant services since, under the Turkish and Egyptian Governments, coupled with the distinguished position he occupied prior to his fall as the best cavalry officer in the British forces, have sufficed to almost entirely eradicate this stain, so that he is now where he was in popular esteem, if indeed the rebound of feeling in his favor has not placed him in a higher niche. No one

doubts his courage or his great skill in command. His crushing defeat was obviously due to the cowardice of the wretched herd, disgracing the name of soldiers, whom he led into the field, but it has a greater significance than that of Hicks Pasha, for it is felt that if Baker can do nothing with the Egyptian army the case is hopeless. The Ministry feel the blow keenly. No wonder Gladstone was pale and subdued when he stood at the table of the House and read the dispatch relating to this event. The Egyptian complication boded no good to the Government even as matters stood previously, and this last development, many think, has sounded its death-knell.

SOMETHING OF COLONEL GORDON.

All eyes turn now toward Colonel Gordon. Should he, too, be overtaken by disaster the country would be wild. Gordon, by the way is an intensely religious man. Before departing on this mission, he wrote to a friend: "I go alone, with an Infinite, Almighty God to direct and guide me, and am glad to so trust Him as to fear nothing, and indeed to feel sure of success." To undertake single-handed the subjugation of a lot of bloodthirsty fanatics, who have but recently cut two large armies to pieces, is a hazardous enterprise, and looks very much like tempting Providence; but "nothing venture, nothing win," is a very true proverb, and certainly if Colonel Gordon wins he will not only be exalted to the position of a world's hero, but will stand a good chance of being canonized as the favorite son of the churches.

## THE PECULIAR SUNSETS.

M. Renou has reported to the Academy of Sciences some observations he has made at the observatory of the Parc de St. Maur of the remarkable phenomena which have characterised recent sunsets. His attention was attracted to it on the evening of November 26, and, notwithstanding the slight resemblance of the phenomenon to the Aurora Borealis, a close watch was kept on the magnetic instruments, but they showed no signs of disturbance. On the morning of the 28th some hours prior to sunrise, the light was as brilliant as the twilight on the preceding evenings. On the 25th the barometer was rather low, but on the 27th and following days it rose rapidly. The mean temperature on the 25th and 26th was about 50 degrees, at 9 p. m. on the 27th it had fallen to 39 degrees, and to 36 degrees at 8 p. m. on the 28th. M. Renou concludes:—"One is not fully aware of the circumstances which favor the production of these brilliant twilights; they appear to agree with a clear space of great extent with light and very high cirrus and dry air in the high regions of the atmosphere. But the phenomena of these past days appears to be connected with an atmospheric state which recurs annually on almost the same day; for since the meteor shower of 1872, November 27, we notice very often stormy manifestations from the 26th to the 28th." Thunder was heard in the morning of one of these days in 1878, and lightning has been seen in the evenings in 1873, 1874, and 1881. Last year thunder was heard near Blois on November 26. M. Chapel notes a coincidence between these phenomena and the meeting of the earth with the November meteor stream. The fact of these phenomena being noted by observers in different latitudes seems to indicate that their cause is high in the atmosphere. Few spectroscopic observations appear to have been secured; but there appears evidence that absorption to some extent may be a cause. Of recent years it has been generally found that displays of Aurora Borealis are accompanied by solar activity, but these "brilliant twilights" have been unaccompanied by any abnormal activity. The interest excited by these appearances will doubtly induce spectroscopists to study them should there be a recurrence, for to that class of observers we must look for the satisfactory solution of their cause.—[Auckland Weekly News.

We extract the following from the *English Law Times* of February 2nd last.

The case of Reg. vs. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, which occupied the whole of a day, was chiefly important as exemplifying the zeal and determination with which some litigants, or their advisers, will run their heads against a stone wall. The case arose upon a claim for return of Probate Duty under Section 51 of the Probate Duty Act (35 Geo. 3rd, c 124). The Commissioners refusing to acknowledge that excess of duty had been paid the applicant proceeded against them by mandamus. This proceeding had often been taken against the Crown or the Commissioners, though only in cases where no objection had been made. In this case the Crown took the objection that mandamus was not the remedy. By some reasoning or other, the applicant succeeded in persuading a divisional Court that the road by mandamus was open. The Appeal Court have unanimously reversed this decision. It is difficult to see how they could do otherwise. It is true that in three cases the proceeding by mandamus has been allowed, but on the distinct understanding that it was only because the Crown waived the objection.

## THE STORY-TELLER.

## Mr. Bird's Best Umbrella

BY F. W. ROBINSON.

Author of "The Hands of Justice," "A Woman's Ransom," "O R Humanity," &c., &c.

(Continued.)

Bridget departed, and it dawned upon me that she had been imbibing just a little—and this had occurred once before, when papa was alive. And she had too, but it was for joy that I was better, and to drink good luck to me she afterwards confessed, and I forgave her, especially as on the next day she joined the Blue Ribbon movement, in sheer contriteness of spirit, and was for ever afterwards—that is, up till now—a worthy, if humble, member of society.

But this Mr. Geoffrey Bird, how the man did trouble me! How his nasty suspicious nature had led him to poke and pry about my establishment, and to take advantage of my helplessness and the proneness of Bridget and Saran for half-crowns to ransack the whole place! My blood boiled with indignation. And then his present—if it were a present—obtrusively nailed against the wall, too as if cared for his carvings, or did anything but despise his miserable manners and his uncharitable self. He could not take my word that no one had stolen his umbrella, oh, dear no! He must prove for himself that I was not speaking the truth. How I hated him!

I was recommended to take a drive next day, and I hired a hansom cab and went to Goswell-road, Islington, with the carved bird. I discovered No. 967 at last, and found the house empty, and a bill with 'THIS HOUSE TO LET' pasted upon the shutters. Mr. Geoffrey Bird had left the neighborhood within the last few days, and no one in Goswell-road knew what had become of him.

So I had my journey for nothing, and all the expenses of payment for carrying me through the heart of the big city, where there was not a breath of air stirring that hot day. I don't think the drive did me any good, I was so terribly vexed that Mr. Bird was not to be discovered, and that I had to return to Prossiter-street with his hateful carving on my lap. I would have thrown it out of the cab only I was afraid of hitting somebody between the eyes and creating an uproar in the metropolis.

'Put that wretched thing away where I can't see it,' I said to Bridget on my return.

'Yes, m'm, leave it to me, m'm.'

'I don't mean where we can't find it,' I added, meeting a decisive expression in Bridget O'Gowan's green eyes that alarmed me; 'the man may call again, although I doubt it very much.'

Next week I was strong enough to join the Brians at Margate—that salubrious marine retreat where one meets everybody he knows, if he only waits long enough. And on the jetty extension that evening I met Captain Choppers and Mr. Goode, who had both come down 'by accident,' and who had been passing each other on the jetty all the evening as though they had never met in the whole course of their lives. Mr. Goode's two sons were in Margate also, but, having fallen headlong into the water whilst fishing, had gone home to bed whilst their suits were being dried. And the next morning whom should I meet face to face,

and smiling as vigorously as ever, but Geoffrey Bird, the carver.

It was early morning, when very few people were stirring, and I had gone for a walk along the Fort to put my blood in circulation and get an appetite for breakfast. The Brians were not early risers, I knew it was no use calling at their apartments till half-past eight o'clock.

Mr. Bird was clad in a dark blue pilot suit, with a very yellow straw hat set on the back of his head and a large telescope under his arm. He was supremely nautical, and I took him for somebody rather high in the coastguard service—a sergeant or something—before he raised his hat and came with a kind of antelope spring towards me.

'Miss Neild,' he exclaimed, 'I am so very glad to see you about again. You really cannot imagine how glad I am!'

'I don't understand why it should occasion you any pleasure, sir.' I said in my most reserved tone of voice.

'Don't you though? Oh, well I'll tell you.'

He turned and walked by my side, and I did not see on the instant how it was possible to get rid of him. I felt my equanimity was seriously disturbed by his appearance, by his insufferable obtrusiveness. This was part and parcel of his ordinary behavior—a total want of froethought, which was as evident that day as in the small hours of the morning when he had roused me out of my first sleep by nearly battering the house down.

He alluded to that little incident at once.

'In answering me that unlucky night, Miss Neild, you nearly caught your death,' he explained, 'and nobody can imagine how miserable I was—how desperately wretched—until I heard you were out of danger. I should have never forgiven myself, upon my honor, and I did not know a moment's peace till Bridget, your girl, told me you were out of danger. Lor! what a trial it was!'

'I don't see why—I don't understand at all—I—'

'I can just fancy how a man feels who has committed a murder and is not found out yet,' he continued; 'it was dreadful, and all my own fault too—every scrap of it.'

I did not feel so bitterly towards him after this. His manner was genuine, if too forcible and fluent for every-day wear. I might have even thanked him for his exaggerated interest in my health and said good-morning, if I had not suddenly remembered his surreptitious visits to lodgers apartments. Then I was adamant, and he saw it. He was certainly an observant man whom very little escaped. I noticed the broad smile disappear, and he said, almost with astonishment—

'Why, you're offended with me still!'

'As I have only seen you once before in my life, I cannot well speak of being offended, Mr. Bird—but I must say—'

'No, no, don't say it,' he cried, interrupting me, 'don't say a word more, please, I—I know it was a great liberty—an unwarrantable liberty—but I couldn't help it. I wanted to make a little return for all the trouble and misery I had brought about, and I couldn't think of anything else. I had just done it, you see.'

'Done what?' I exclaimed snappishly—I could have screamed at him for two pins.

'Why, the little bit of carving—aren't you talking about that?' he enquired.

'No, sir, although I'll trouble you to remove the article from my premises as soon as you conveniently can.'